

**The Trojan War** The story of the Trojan War has everything a story should have—great battles, plots and schemes, loyalty and betrayal. According to the myths, a prince named Paris, from the wealthy city of Troy, was the guest of a Greek chieftain named Menelaus (men uh LAY us). Breaking the law of the gods, Paris kidnapped Menelaus' wife, Helen, and took her to Troy. To get Helen back, the Greek chieftains sent a huge army to attack Troy.

For ten long years, the war dragged on. Many heroes on both sides perished. At last, the Greeks conquered Troy by a trick—the Trojan Horse. The Greeks burned and looted Troy and then returned home.

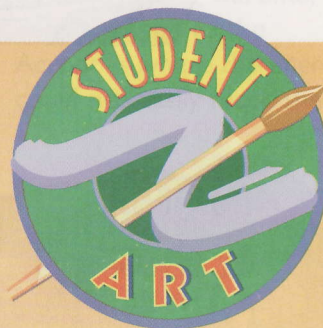
Two **epics**, or long poems, about the Trojan War survive today. They are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The *Iliad* tells about a quarrel between Greek leaders in the last year of the war. The *Odyssey* describes the adventures of the hero Odysseus (oh DIS ee us) as he struggles to return to his homeland from Troy.

These epics may have been composed by many people, but they are credited to a poet called Homer. The poems were important to the Greeks. They taught them what their gods were like and how the noblest of their heroes behaved. Today, people think these poems came from stories memorized by several poets and passed down by word of mouth through many generations. Homer may have been the last and greatest in this line of poets who told about the Trojan War.



**Ask Questions** What would you like to know about the Trojan War?

### Trojan Horse



**Sissy Pachiadaki**

**age 12**

Greece

This picture shows how the Trojan Horse helped the Greeks conquer Troy. Greek warriors hid inside a huge wooden horse. The horse was rolled to the city gates. The Trojans thought it was a gift to the gods, so they brought it into their city. During the night, the Greek soldiers climbed out of the horse and let the rest of their army into Troy.